

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 26-28 are currently pending. Claims 1, 4-17, 20, 21 and 24 are hereby canceled without prejudice or surrender of subject matter. Claim 26 is independent. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicants reserve the right to re-present the canceled claims in a continuation application.

Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants thank the Examiner for noting claims 26-28 recite allowable subject matter.

The present application has been put in condition for allowance by canceling the rejected claims.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§102 AND 103

Claims 1, 4-8, 10-13, 16, 17, 20, 21, 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0126245 of Feltin et al. (hereinafter, merely “Feltin”);

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly unpatentable over Feltin in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0126245 of Yeager et al.; and

Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly unpatentable over Feltin in view of Baughman et al., “*Cheat-Proof Payout for Centralized and Distributed Online Games*,” INFOCOM 2001, Twentieth Annual Joint Conference of the IEEE Computer and Communications Societies Proceedings, 22-26 April 2001 (hereinafter merely “Baughman”).

Claims 1, 4-17, 20, 21 and 24 have been canceled herein without prejudice or surrender of subject matter obviating these rejections.

CONCLUSION

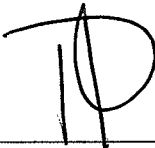
Claims 26-28 are in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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